

RETURN

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TO AN ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, dated the 9th December, 1912, for a copy of all papers, documents, letters, &c., between the Government of Canada and the Commonwealth of Australia for the past twelve months relative to the matter of preferential tariff arrangements between the said two countries.

LOUIS CODERRE,
Secretary of State.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF COMMERCE,
OTTAWA, January 4, 1913.

DEAR MR. TUDOR,—With reference to former correspondence, I beg leave to say that, as at present advised, I shall leave Canada for New Zealand on February 19, and will take part in the deliberations of the Dominion Royal Commission, first in New Zealand and afterwards in Australia, reaching the latter country about the last of March.

Whilst engaged in that work I shall be able to have an informal conference with you and members of your Government with reference to possible preferential arrangements between Canada and Australia, and at the conclusion of the proceedings of the Dominion Royal Commission in June, will be able to devote such time as is necessary exclusively to our negotiations.

I will keep you informed as to my movements and the time when I shall arrive in Melbourne.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) GEORGE E. FOSTER.

Hon. FRANK TUDOR,
Minister of Commerce,
Melbourne, Australia.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF COMMERCE,
OTTAWA, December 11, 1912.

DEAR MR. TUDOR,—I have your letter of November 1st, and thank you for the same.

I am glad to know that the contingency of elections will not prevent a full discussion of the question of reciprocal trade, and I thank you for the assurance of welcome and good-will.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) GEORGE E. FOSTER,

Hon. F. G. TUDOR,
Minister of Commerce,
Melbourne, Australia.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND CUSTOMS,
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
MELBOURNE, November 1, 1912.

DEAR MR. FOSTER,—I received with pleasure your note of 26th September last, intimating your contemplated visit to Australia.

Whilst you will arrive here during the usual turmoil of our general elections, that feature will not interfere with our opportunity for full discussion of the question of reciprocal trade—a subject which both our governments are keenly interested in, and which, if successfully and wisely consummated, must prove of substantial benefit to Canada and Australia.

You may be sure of a warm welcome, and that my colleagues and myself will endeavour to make your stay in Australia pleasant and enjoyable.

I have given your message to Mr. Fisher, who joins me in reciprocating good wishes.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) FRANK G. TUDOR.

The Hon. GEORGE E. FOSTER,
Minister of Trade and Commerce,
Ottawa, Canada.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF COMMERCE,
OTTAWA, September 26, 1912.

DEAR MR. TUDOR,—I was on the point of writing you when I received advices from our Mr. Ross that your Government has decided not to introduce any tariff legislation at the present session of your parliament. This action was not unexpected by me as I knew the difficulties of bringing down important and controversial legislation towards the dissolution of Parliament.

It soon became apparent to me, as it no doubt did to you, that there were great difficulties in the way of conducting tariff negotiations at such long distances, and these, in the case of Canada and Australia, were enhanced on account of the nature of the products to be interchanged. I think, however, that it would be to the advantage of both countries that personal conference should take place when we can talk over freely and far more thoroughly the various articles to be included in our proposed arrangement. So far as at present advised, I expect to be in Australia not much latter than the middle of April and to remain there for some considerable time. I hope that by that time your elections will have been over, and that we shall be able to sit down and give thorough and sympathetic consideration to the whole subject of our commercial relations, and I do not have any doubt that we shall arrive at a satisfactory conclusion.

The assurances of your premier and yourself as regards your desire and sympathy to that end are amply sufficient to justify the hope that I have expressed, and you may rest assured that Canada is none the less sympathetic than your Commonwealth.

Kindly remember me to Mr. Fisher and accept my assurances of regard and esteem.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) GEORGE E. FOSTER,
Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Hon. FRANK TUDOR,
Minister of Commerce and Labour,
Melbourne.